

PATENT
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

OFFICIAL

In re Application of:
K. Garza et al.

Serial No.: 09/960,445

Filed: September 21, 2001

For: Method of Kick Detection and Cuttings Bed
Buildup Detection Using a Drilling Tool

Group Art Unit: 2878

Examiner: C. Hannaher

Atty. Dkt. No.: 19.0302

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transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark
Office, Box No. (703) 872-9318.K. Garza
K. Garza
K. GarzaOct 6, 2003
DateRESPONSE AND AMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir or Madam::

In response to the Office Action dated June 6, 2003, please consider the following comments:

Introductory Comments

The independent claims have been rejected under section 103 based on Holenka, a commonly assigned patent, in view of Mathis. Applicant submits herewith the following comments in support of the belief the originally filed claims are novel and non-obvious in view of the cited references. Independent claim 15, and associated dependent claims, has been rejected under section 112, first paragraph, for failing to conform with the enablement requirement. These claims have been amended to recited mud mixture in place of formation. The oath or declaration has been objected to on the basis that it is defective, specifically failing to list an inventor's middle initial. A new oath or declaration shall be submitted separate from this Response and Amendment. Finally, the specification was objected to based metric symbol preference. The Examiner's preferred symbol has been adopted by amendment.